Strengthening Culture and Values in Education is under implementation since 1988-89. Under this scheme, financial assistance is extended to Non-Governmental Organizations to take up Value Education Project for children in school and non-formal sector of education.

(c) and (d) As per existing Education Policy, the Government of India in the Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a number of schemes to improve the employability of the students/individuals when they enter the world of employment. These include Vocational Education, Community Polytechnics, Jan Shikshan Sansthan etc.

NCERT textbooks

4403. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has expressed serious concern over the non availability of NCERT textbooks in markets and directed to make them available within few days;

(b) if so, whether the NCERT from the last few years has failed to provide books in markets causing undue harassment to students;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that students are not deprived of books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) NCERT has, over the years, made all possible efforts to see that its textbooks are available on time in the market. This year also NCERT textbooks for Classes I to XI and for class XII (3rd semester) have since been printed and released for sale in the market. These books have been made available to the students through a countrywide network of about 160 wholesale dealers throughout the country. The books are also sold from NCERT Headquarters' sales counter, New Delhi. On account of the truckers' strike, some difficulties were experienced in dispatching the books to the regional centers of NCERT located at Kolkata, Bangalore and Ahmedabad for further delivery to the wholesale dealers in the respective regions and availability to the children.